



## City of South Miami Cares for the Environment, Proclaims the Release of Balloons Prohibited

Thousands of balloons released by people return to earth every year as litter and poison the planet in many ways. South Miami is trying to stop the problem.

- Latex balloons can take from 6 months to 4 years to decompose and mylar balloons aren't biodegradable.
- Balloons can be mistaken as food by marine animals and wildlife, blocking their digestive tracts causing infections and starvation.



- Animals often get entangled with balloon strings or ribbons, preventing them from moving until they die.
- Mylar balloons are hazardous to power lines, causing surges of electricity and power outages.



In the effort to prevent harm, the City of South Miami passed an ordinance on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 prohibiting the release of balloons:

- Balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases shall not be released in the City limits.
- Any balloons filled with gases shall be tied securely to an object heavier than the balloon and a paper tag shall be attached to the string/ribbon attached to the balloon that states: "Releasing this balloon will harm the environment / Soltando este globo al aire dañara la naturaleza".  
(See Ord. 13-16-2246 amending Sec. 13A-22 of the Code of ordinances)

**Earth-friendly alternatives can be used to commemorate an event like blowing bubbles and planting trees or butterfly gardens. Plan your event with a mindset of saving the environment and promoting the survival of wildlife.**